

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01921 232100Z

16
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 EB-07 HEW-04 /025 W
----- 128477

R 232030Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9503
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, XM, TD
SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

REF: STATE 177008

1. THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL TECHNOLOGIES HAVE BECOME MAJOR INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS IT PLOTS A COURSE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON ITS OIL REVENUES. THESE REVENUES AND THE PRESENCE OF RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN TRINIDAD PROVIDE AMPLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND A GOOD BASE ON WHICH TO BUILD, BUT TRINIDAD'S SMALL SIZE AND GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION TEND TO INHIBIT LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH PROJECTS.

2. THE BEST AND MOST PROMISING EXISTING INSTITUTION IN TRINIDAD FOR THE KINDS OF PROGRAMS DISCUSSED IN THE REFERENCE IS THE CARIBBEAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARIRI) LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES AT ST. AUGUSTINE. CARIRI IS A SMALL INSTITUTE FOUNDED IN 1970 AND FINANCED CHIEFLY BY THE GOVT WITH OTHER SUPPORT FROM THE UNDP AND GRANTS FROM THE OAS, CIDA, AND UNIDO. THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF CARIRI NOW IS PROVIDING A RESEARCH AND TESTING FACILITY FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

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MENT NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. IT HAS A STAFF OF ABOUT 80

PROFESSIONALS AND TECHNICIANS AND AN ANNUAL BUDGET ON THE ORDER OF US\$800,000. CARIRI HAS FOUR FUNCTIONAL DIVISIONS; ENGINEERING AND ECOMMICS, FOOD AND CHEMISTRY, MATERIALS TESTING, AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE. ITS MOST AMBITIOUS PROJECT SO FAR HAS BEEN A STUDY ON THE MANUFACTURER OF SINGLE CELL PROTEIN FROM PETROLEUM.

3. ANOTHER POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT CENTER IS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) AT ST. AUGUSTINE. UWI HAS NOT SO FAR HOWEVER, DEVELOPED MUCH OF A CAPABILITY FOR RESEARCH OUTSIDE AREAS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE. THE OVERALL SCIENTIFIC POLICY OF TRINIDAD IS COORDINATED BY A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPMENT. THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED EARLY THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, AND HAS NOT YET HAD AN APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY'S SCIENTIFIC POLICY.

4. SINCE THE EXISTING AND FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TRINIDAD HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH PRIVATE AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN CORPORATIONS, ANY PROGRAM FOR TRINIDAD SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THE PROGRAMS OF THESE CORPORATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF PETROCHEMICALS, IN ORDER TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM EFFECT. OTHER U.S. FIRMS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PROVIDING MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING SERVICES IN MANY AREAS IN TRINIDAD BUT HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES HERE ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

5. THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER TO FUND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTES WOULD PROVIDE A DESIRABLE NEUTRALIZING FILTER WHICH WOULD MAKE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS AND SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE MORE POLITICALLY PALATABLE TO TRINIDAD. IT COULD ALSO AVOID THE PROBLEM OF DIRECT USG OR U.S. CORPORATE CONTROL WHICH HAS CAUSED SOME REAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN THE PAST. A REGIONAL CENTER RUN BY THE OAS WHICH DID NOT MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR THE SMALLER ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN WOULD PROBABLY DISSIPATE THE CENTER'S SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT IN TRINIDAD, HOWEVER.

6. IN SUM, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRINIDAD AND THE OTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STATES WOULD BE DESIRABLE. IN ORDER TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, THE CENTER'S PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE FINANCING AND ARRANGING FOR TRAINING AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED AREAS. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ANY PROGRAM IN THIS AREA SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE, DE JURE OR DE FACTO, RELATIVELY HIGH GNP OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES FROM FULL BENEFITS OF THE CENTER. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE

PETROLEUM SECTOR HERE OFFERS GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR
TECHNICAL ADVANCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ECONOMY AS A
WHOLE, AND EXCLUSION OF TRINIDAD ON THE BASIS OF HIGH OIL
INCOME WOULD BE STRONGLY RESENTED HERE.
FAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO01921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760285-0668
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760728/aaaaaxzv.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 177008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER
TAGS: TGEN, XM, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006